

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP ENRICHING THE PEOPLE.

A Sageable Talk from a Man Who Knows — Railroads and Telegraphs — Just All the Taxes for Improvement.

Mr. Willis's New Zealander is supposed to be the Grand hotel in this city. He is a member of the New Zealand parliament from Wanganui, named A. D. Willis, who has been making a trip around the world. He told yesterday how the woman's suffrage, the government ownership of railroads and telegraph lines, government insurance, government banking, co-operation in public works, the doing away of large land holdings, Henry George's single-tax theory, and other things only dreamed of in the rest of the world are known in the practical every-day life of that southern land. All these things, he says, have been brought about by their legislature and are far beyond the experimental state. Speaking last night at the Grand, Mr. Willis said:

"The mass of the people is the first consideration with us altogether, and everything is being done for them, from the government ownership of railroads down to loaning money on land. I have been for some months traveling in different countries in Europe and the United States, and find that everywhere a great deal of interest is taken in our government on account of the many new departures we have made and the desire to know how our new experiments, as they regard them, are coming on. But we have got far beyond the experimental stage. I have received the greatest kindness from Americans everywhere, and I am leaving the country with a very feeling toward the people, but with a decided dislike for their system of government, by which wealth is represented and not the people.

"With us, all that our government is for is the mass of the people. We are very radical. There is no conservatism about us at all. I suppose you want to know something about woman's franchise and how that is working. The last parliament was the first to be returned under the new system. The women are coming to the front at a rate that astonishes us. The most astounding thing about all is that, while the conservative party is the greatest interest in giving the franchise to women, in the hope that it would help their dying cause, the women have come out strongly against them, and over two-thirds of the members of the house of representatives were returned by the liberals. The liberals never had so large a majority before the women were given the franchise. Even the women who were careless about getting the franchise are making full use of it. As you Americans say, it has come to stay. Generally speaking, nearly as many women voted as men. They formed their own committees and worked very hard and very systematically and are making a careful study of all political questions."

Evidently, according to Mr. Willis, there is no question about the advantage of government ownership of railroads. He said:

I have been astonished to see how blind the people of America are to their own interests in allowing railroads and telegraph lines to be taken up by monopolies. In our country we look upon railroads much as we do on wagon roads, and think it would be just as bad to hand the turnpikes over to monopolies to erect toll gates every few miles and collect tolls as to hand them over those greater highways—railroads. Railways, we believe, should be a means of assisting farmers to take their products to market even if there is no profit in running them. There are over two thousand miles of railway in New Zealand, nearly all owned by the government. Our system of managing them can not be beaten. There is no corruption and not a single abuse.

The telegraph system belongs entirely to the government. Then we have a government system of insurance which works admirably. Through this we are abolishing all pensions. All government employes, including those connected with the railroads and telegraph system, are compelled to provide for their own insurance out of their salaries.

Our taxation is based on Henry George's theory of a single tax on land, and we also have an income tax. All legislation is so arranged that there is no taxation on improved land. Land improved and unimproved pays the same tax. Under our income tax we exempt all income under 300 pounds a year, and on incomes from 300 to 1,000 pounds the rate is six pence per pound. On incomes from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds the rate increases from six pence to a shilling, and on incomes above 2,000 pounds it remains a shilling to the pound.

Last year we adopted a system of lending money to farmers on both freehold and leasehold lands at a low rate of interest, with a 1 per cent sinking fund, which clears off the loan in thirty-three years by compound interest.

New Zealand has taken the bull by the horns in the question of preventing large holdings of land. As to this Mr. Willis said:

We have passed legislation by which we can take back lands held in large blocks. That is, a bill has been passed giving the government a right to purchase all of one man's holdings over from one to three thousand acres, depending on the quality, to be decided by arbitration. It does not follow that

much of this will be done yet for awhile until our population increases. Then we have not the money to spare.

Government land is now leased for 999 years in small portions from 100 to 500 acres. Any one who wishes to take such land pays a low rate of interest on the value of the land, and for the first two years is required to put in a small amount of work until it is in condition to settle on. Then he must live on it. But our people are not satisfied with that. What we want and what we shall probably get soon is a system of leasing in perpetuity with a revaluation from time to time.

We are trying something entirely new in the way of co-operative labor in public work. Instead of letting such work out to contractors, it is cut up into small pieces by the government engineer, who values it at fair working wages, 7 shillings a day, or about \$1.75 in your money, and contracts are given out to the men at that rate. This system has been so successful that it is being extended to all work such as painting public buildings, building stations and the like. Probably there will be no contracts let under the old system in the future.

In every way, as I have said, we look carefully to the interest of the mass of the people. Our factory girls are not allowed to work over eight hours a day, children under 14 years of age are not allowed to work in factories and until they have passed through certain grades in the schools. We compel employers in factories to give a weekly half-holiday. No shops are allowed open on Sunday, and every shop must be closed one day in the week at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. The closing of the shops on Sunday was not at all on secular grounds, but simply to give employes a reasonable amount of rest.

The governor sent over by the queen has no veto power over our legislation and is really only a figure-head, for he has really very little to do with our government. We have home rule in reality.

Mr. Willis looks hopefully to the practical workings of the single tax theory as soon as it is adopted in its entirety by the government of his country.—San Francisco Examiner, May 4.

Will They Do It Again?

In 1878 there was a strong greenback sentiment in Missouri that threatened to overwhelm the Democratic party. When their state convention met it adopted the following plank in its platform:

"We regard the national banking system as being oppressive and burdensome, and demand the abolition and retirement from circulation of all national bank notes and the issue of legal tender notes in lieu thereof, and in quantities from time to time sufficient to supply the wholesome and necessary business demands of the entire country, and that all greenbacks so issued shall be used in the purchase and retirement of bonds of the United States, so that the interest bearing debt of the country may be lessened to the extent of the greenbacks thus put in circulation."

This plank corralled the boys. They all fell in and whooped for the grand old party. The greenbackers warned them that it was only a bait and meant nothing except to catch votes. These warnings were unheeded. They followed the leaders until they are now in the gold-bug camp.

And now the Democrats of Missouri are trying that same old trick. They have held a free silver convention. They have declared for free silver. But the trouble is they still remain with a gold-bug party. They are in the minority. They will have to vote for a gold-bug for president in 1896. It is the same old story of betrayal. The people must be deceived in order to save the party and give a few men office. It is a continual scramble for spoil instead of principle. The same farce is being played in other states. How long will the people suffer themselves to be thus fooled for the sake of a party that frustrates their objects?

Debt Slavery.

Chattel slavery could have been legislated out of existence had it not been for the intolerance of the slave power. Not by proclaiming them free without remunerating their owners, but by purchasing them, and forever prohibiting slavery in the future. This would have been much cheaper than the war. But the Slave Power in its arrogance would not permit it. The policy was compromise. It secured the Dred Scott decision. It hung John Brown. But all these did not make it right. The party leaders refused to settle it by legislation and the people rose up and shot it to death. We have in this country today a system of debt slavery. Its burdens are greater than chattel slavery imposed upon the blacks. The people have been trying to settle it by legislation. The creditors, the owners of labor, are arrogant—insolent. They want to extend their dominion over the people as the slave power did over the blacks. The people are willing to pay their debts, but they insist on the right to pay in the dollar of the contract. The creditors insist on payment in a dollar of greater value. They bribe the people's representatives, the executive and the courts. The income tax decision is almost a parallel to the Dred Scott decision. The court of last resort was declared for plutocratic wealth. The people have lost confidence in government and respect for law. They are approaching the temper of revolution. Debt slavery must go. If it is legislated out of existence—that is, if the people are not given an opportunity to pay their debts in the dollar of the contract, they will shoot debt slavery to death as they destroyed chattel slavery. Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right, and debt slavery is no more right than was chattel slavery.



AN OLD DODGE. Letting the Little Fellow Think He's Driving—When He Isn't—A National Disgrace.—From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

REV. SAM JONES TALKS

GIVES HIS VIEWS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Says Old Party Lines Are Fading Out, and the Country Is Organizing on the Brains and Common Sense of the Common People.

For the past twenty years the rank and file of citizens have given very little attention to politics. Our rapidly developing country, the various commercial and agricultural interests, have commanded their attention, every man has been busy with his own affairs—watching his opportunities in the business world. We have literally turned the governmental machine over to the politicians, and for years the professional politicians and tricksters have manipulated things to suit themselves, and all they had to do was to write out their platform and write democratic or republican above it, crack a party whip, and the people fell in line. As long as the old governmental machine milked enough for the family nobody cared how many calves sucked, but when there was not milk enough to go in the coffee the question was raised. The people have attended to their own personal business and have turned governmental affairs over to pot politicians and tricksters until they have managed things their own way until the government of the United States is literally in the hands of a set of political stealers and government robbers.

The only question the average politician of to-day asks is: "What plank and what man will capture the most votes?" The vote hunter has made appropriations wherever he could capture a vote, and every fellow who got scared at the sight of a soldier or a gun during the war, or who had a bad cold or stumped his toe, has got his pension and gone to town to whittle white pine, while a few of the honest soldiers are supporting nearly a million of Uncle Sam's loafers and white pine whittlers. The question now is how to get a public pap to suck. When the democratic calves are sucking the republican calves stand around the lot and bawl. When the national election opens the gates and turns out the democratic calves every little republican calf rushes in, grabs a tit, shakes his tail and goes to sucking.

The people looking on the depleted treasury, gazing on their property reduced to one-half its value, putting their grain and stock upon the market at half price, pouring their hard-earned money into the depleted treasury of the United States, in heavy taxes, are beginning to look square in the face the question of the absolute bankruptcy of the United States unless something is done. They have waited four years on a wrangling congress, cross lifting with each other and the President, and bringing no relief. They have stuck to old party lines till hope has died within their bosom, and now almost every thoughtful citizen in the United States has got his ears backed and is prepared to kick the filling out of any fellow that cracks a party whip over him.

The old party lines are fading out and the country is organizing on the brains and common sense of the common people; organizing on a basis to secure speedy legislation on the questions that most need immediate attention. I looked upon this as the most fortunate thing that could happen to our great commonwealth. This is a republican government. We need an intelligent citizenship. To have this we must have first a free press, with brains and statesmanship at the head, not bought and bribed and dominated by a party lash, but governed by patriotism, intelligence and sense of right, instructing the people honestly and impartially on the great governmental questions of the day. The common people are beginning to think more than ever on government questions; they are beginning to doubt, investigate and examine, and the time is coming and ought quickly to come, when the masses of the people will cease to be driven into line by party lash wielded by corrupt, selfish and designing politicians.

If I should make a cartoon of the

DEAR MONEY FOLLY.

DEBT INCREASED \$111,173,054 IN ONE YEAR.

And Millions of Cash in the Treasury — A System of Financing That Would Disgrace Hottentot Barbarians Practiced by Honest Money Men.

The following is taken from the annual report of the secretary of the navy issued July 1:

The monthly statement of the public debt, shows the debt on June 30, 1895, the end of the fiscal year, to have been \$1,096,913,120, exclusive of \$579,207,863 in certificates and treasury notes in circulation, offset by an equal amount of cash in the treasury. Nor does it include \$31,157,730 in bonds of the last issue which have not yet been delivered to London purchasers. The corresponding debt on June 30, 1894, was \$1,016,879,816, showing an increase for the year, including bonds not yet delivered in London of \$111,173,054. The cash in the treasury, however, has increased, during the year from \$117,584,436 to \$195,230,153, a gain of \$77,655,717. The true public debt, including bonds not yet delivered, less cash in the treasury, is therefore \$922,830,717, an increase for the year of \$33,517,337.

In plainer language the secretary of the treasury in order to find an excuse for the issue of additional bonds, has added

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Total: \$111,173,054. Includes items like Gold, Silver, Paper, etc.

In the face of these figures the people are led to believe that there is only \$195,230,153 "available" cash in the treasury. The treasury officials get this figure by deducting \$615,821,533 "demand liabilities" as they call them and designate the balance as "available." The total debt including these "demand liabilities" (gold and silver certificates) is \$1,071,293,889.

Slaves at Auction. On June 24, 205 convicts in the Indiana state prison were auctioned off to the highest bidder, with the privilege of buying them again at the end of that time. These men were sold as slaves to contractors! This is plain, unvarnished truth. In older times, when the rulers needed more slaves, men were arrested for alleged violation of some law and made to do service. In Indiana and nearly every state this is true to-day. If the reports in the daily press are true these men, on an average, are better than the average officers. The reports of forgery, theft and brutality by those in charge of prisoners and other public business is notorious. There is no moral reason why convicts should be made slaves of. It is brutal. It will make them worse. Why should the state house and feed and guard slaves to allow some grasping contractors to make a profit? If the prison officers are not competent to employ the prisoners in a self-supporting manner they should be displaced and others who are competent employed. A man's actions are his mind; his mind is the reflex of surroundings. Make his surroundings just, kind and fraternal. Nearly every criminal could be reclaimed if their minds were cultivated in prison, but to do this the minds of the prison officials must be right. When a man is sent to prison for violating a law that is not in accord with morals, that man is not a criminal but the men who make and execute such a law are the real criminals. Most men in prison are not to blame.—Coming Nation.

Why Is It? Why is the plate press so quiet about the bankers' national convention held at Saratoga, N. Y., the other day? Have they caught on that bankers' opium are mightily unpopular now? New Charter (San Jose, Cal.)

Have you heard the news broker? The bankers have decided not to allow any more of their proceedings to become public. The people are catching on to the conspiracy.

There is no getting around it. The main question is now, as it always has been, whether man or money shall rule.

Bankers and usurers are the only men that ever questioned the credit of government in time of peace.

If men won't vote for freedom they deserve what they get.

Democracy seems to be afflicted with a bad case of lost identity.

WAYLAND'S CENTER SHOTS.

The One Boss Editor Rips 'Em Up the Back.

A government that makes three cents worth of copper into a dollar worth 100 cents, but it can't make 50 cents worth of silver into a dollar worth 100 cents! Rats!

We do not kill and eat people now-a-days. Greed and gluttony have found out a better way. A body would not net over a hundred pounds and would not go very far. But by making that body's mind believe certain lies about "sound-money," "protection," "private property," etc., the captors can make that body produce thousands of pounds of fine meat, vegetables, and pleasures galore. It's cannibalism all the same, only the present system of wage-slavery is far more profitable. There is no moral difference. One eats his neighbor who lives by making a profit off him.

The textile workers of Rhode Island, after starving more or less for three months "striking," have returned to work at the master's wages. The masters didn't starve. They had feasts like unto Belshazzar, they balled and dined, while the workers, too foolish to listen to socialists, were outside and starving. They vote their masters' ticket, and are afraid to listen to socialism and learn how it will make them masters. Let 'em starve. Darn a starving voter who insists on voting for a system that starves him. Vote for hoodlums some more, eh?

If public ownership of railroads were submitted to a vote I think it would carry three to one, even with as corrupt a government as reigns at Washington. The tactics being played by the kings is to keep it from being discussed, let alone voted on. The railroads are the armies of conquest by which a Gould, Vanderbilt, Hill or Huntington gather in the riches of the people. They are as much opposed to government ownership as would be a conquering general to the taking away of his army. But the people being robbed should take away from the general the army used to oppress them.

Confessed His Ignorance. Prof. Jordan of Stanford University (California), has been very busy of late denouncing socialism. He is a professed disciple of Darwin, but is evidently going back on the teachings of his master, whose evolution represents humanity losing its tail in search of a soul, while Jordan's economic evolution leads to the loss of a soul in search of a tail that can never be restored.

According to the San Francisco papers, President Jordan was lately announced for a lecture in the Oakland Unitarian church on "Socialism, Altruism and Individualism," but on learning just before the lecture that Laurence Gronlund had made his way past the door-keeper, and had come prepared to review the speaker's address, in the presence of the same assembly, he prudently refrained from delivering the literary goods for which his entire audience had paid in advance, and donated an hour to personal abuse of Mr. Gronlund and other social reformers, who are trying to get something for nothing.

When the speaker asked his way, he failed to deliver the original lecture, as announced, he answered not being a scientific student of socialism he did not care to discuss the subject with Gronlund. Yet he was assuming to instruct the public on the very theme of which he confessed himself so ignorant that he did not dare to discuss it with a thinker and author whose works in this line are universally regarded as authority.

That Ten Per Cent Rate. All over the country the statement is published that wages at Pullman have been increased ten per cent, and the company has received enthusiastic notice from the daily press generally on this unselfish act of a corporation that only a year ago was the most extensively abused for profitless meanness of any corporation in the United States.

The real facts appear to be that the Pullman company are deceiving the people and that the pretended raise in wages has not occurred.

The Chicago Chronicle under the caption "The Pullman Fraud" says: "Inquiry among the men who earn the wages demonstrates that there has been no 'raise.' At least, the people who draw pay have not found their checks bigger or their pay envelopes heavier. One man—a skilled workman, not a laborer—tells a Chronicle reporter that a week's work of 10 1/2 hours a day brings him only \$13.80. Another says that in the cabinet-making department \$2.35 a day is the limit set. Pay is theoretically by the piece, so as to prevent loafing—which is just—but if a man is particularly active, industrious and efficient, he is still prevented from earning more than 22 cents an hour—which is more than 22 cents a fraudulent."

It is singular that even for three or four days the Pullman concern could hush the press of Chicago. Nobody who has had opportunity to study the methods of that corporation could attach importance to the assertion that it had voluntarily increased the wages of its employes. Philanthropy is no part of the Pullman code of business, nor even is justice. Wages once lowered never increase. The hand of Pullman is against every man—that is, against society, and it is not extravagant to say that society is coming to raise its hand against Pullman.

The way to win is to work to win. Now is a good time to begin.

Democracy seems to be afflicted with a bad case of lost identity.